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## The Lincoln e Letter Blanche Lincoln – U.S. Senator for Arkansas Meet Blanche Services Issues Newsroom Arkansas Contact

I was so pleased to bring the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry to Little Rock this week for my first field hearing as Chairman. The hearing, "Revitalizing Rural America," provided an opportunity for Arkansans to begin a new dialogue with the Committee and play a central role in shaping our agenda moving forward.

Putting the economy back on the right track is my number one priority. Investing in our rural communities will boost our economy and spur new job creation. With 48 percent of our state's population living in rural areas, it is critical for my Committee to focus on providing our rural citizens with the tools they need to strengthen and grow their economies. I will use this Chairmanship to reverse the devastating effects our ailing economy has had on Arkansans.

The Committee heard testimony from three panels, with the first focused on the importance of production agriculture to the rural economy and the impact recent flooding has had on this year's crop. Last week introduced legislation that would provide timely disaster assistance to farmers affected by this and other weather-related disasters. A second panel focused on improving rural infrastructure, and the final panel discussed successful community and economic development initiatives.

I also <u>hosted an Agriculture and Business Leadership Breakfast</u> for more than 100 Arkansans to speak out on steps we can take to put our economy back on the right track.

In closing, I want to wish you and your families a very happy Thanksgiving. While we face many challenges, we have much to be thankful for this holiday season.

With Arkansas Pride.

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Photo Gallery: U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln speaks at her Senate Agriculture Committee Field Hearing in Little Rock.



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